

Message Text

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11
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W
----- 106673
R 202152Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1457

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: CI, PGOV
SUBJECT: NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

1. THE SEPTEMBER 18-19 NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN SANTIAGO INCLUDED THE USUAL EVENTS. DURING THE TRADITIONAL TE DEUM AT THE CATHEDRAL ON SEPTEMBER 18 RAUL CARDINAL SILVA READ A LONG SERMON IN THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA, CABINET MINISTERS AND MILITARY LEADERS, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THE SERMON COVERED THE GENERAL THEMES OF LOVE, PEACE AND JUSTICE AND EMPLOYED THE KIND OF BROAD LANGUAGE THAT ON THE WHOLE IS AGREEABLE TO ALL.

2. THE CARDINAL DID, HOWEVER, MAKE A FEW POINTED REMARKS ON THE NECESSITY OF PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO DISSENT, AND ON THE BALANCE BETWEEN ORDER AND LIBERTY ("ORDER OBTAINED AT THE COST OF LIBERTY WOULD BE NONSENSE"). HE SPOKE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE LACK OF NEED TO INVENT NEW POLITICAL PATTERNS FOR CHILE: "OUR PUREST DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN TRADITION IS THE WAY."

3. ARMY DAY SEPTEMBER 19 WAS MARKED BY THE TRADITIONAL MILITARY PARADE, WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT WITH GUSTO AND THE UTMOST PRECISION. THE FOREIGN VISITORS FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS WERE ALL MILITARY: SENIOR MILITARY MINISTERS AND/OR COMMANDERS FROM ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, PARAGUAY, BRAZIL, PERU, URUGUAY, PANAMA, AND SPAIN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA09180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760355-1188
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760941/aaaabitk.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006